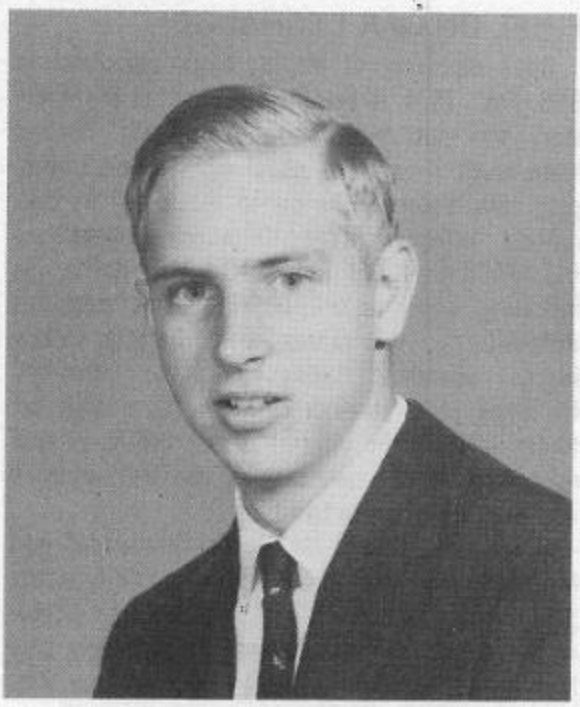
MMR_0052 Robert Van Cleef



ROBERT VAN CLEEF, MMR NO. 52

Bob Van Cleef has had to abandon his North River Railroad as he, his wife and two pre-school children have just moved into a new house. His railroad will be rebuilt as a 1900 era short line that is just able to meet expenses. At present, a 12 by 38-foot room is being built in the cellar to house the layout.

Bob plans to make operation the main feature. There will be two walk-around controls that will plug into outlets spaced every five feet along the bench-work. These controls will operate momentum throttles placed in one central location. Photocell detectors between the rails will send signals to an automatic control system built with integrated circuits. With these devices an engineer will be able to operate a train anywhere, from any location and still maintain both train protection (signals) and control.

Model building is Bob's second interest. Most structures are "imagineered" or only based on kits. He finds it rewarding to be able to create scenes from the past. Other projects have included building 40 truss-rod 36' red box cars; hand laying track; and "just plain making the *#&$ things go."

Bob is 29 years old and is an inspector at United Aircraft. He is responsible for maintaining dimensional conformance of engine parts.

He holds Achievement Certificates for Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Dispatcher and Author.